MEMORANDUM

TO: 138/Head, Purchasing and Construction Contracting Branch, PD
FROM: 359/Assistant Head, Transonic Aerodynamics Branch, STAD
SUBJECT: Langley 8-Foot TPT Fan Blade Repairs Under F/R 5211.0801

Recently the fiberglass blades for the Langley 8-Foot Transonic Pressure Tunnel were extensively damaged due to a balance failure in the tunnel. This facility is actively engaged in research of national importance in supercritical aerodynamics and studies of fuel conservative aircraft configurations which can greatly impact both the economy and the balance of payments for the nation. Therefore, it is very urgent for this critical facility to be kept operational on a continuing basis. The damaged fan blades were replaced with an old set of blades which have accumulated many hours of operation. As a result, there are no back-up blades presently available in the event of a major catastrophic failure. It is therefore recommended that immediate steps be initiated to affect the repairs of the damaged fan blades and that these repairs be made as quickly as possible to prevent the Government from being harmed both financially and otherwise. It is further requested that in order to insure proper repairs that the procurement contract be limited to only those firms within a seven-mile radius to enhance Langley's ability to monitor the utilization of Government Furnished Materials, repair progress and eliminate official travel.

The repair of subject blades is considered to be in a public exigency status since no spare blades are available and the need to operate the 8-Foot Transonic Tunnel is serving a national research effort and must be capable of operating continuously with down time kept to an absolute minimum.

Ralph P. Bielat
2252 August 26, 1975